

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

**Notice SIP-29**

**For:** State and County Offices, State Foresters, and Service Foresters

**Resuming Acceptance of SIP Applications and Managing SIP Funds**

**Approved by:** Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



---

**1 Overview**

**A**

**Background**

Notice SIP-28 temporarily suspended accepting SIP applications at USDA County Offices.

**Reminder:** The temporary suspension did not apply to SIP Ice Storm Funds, fund code 20.

**B**

**Purpose**

This notice provides procedures for FSA and State Forestry Office employees to resume accepting SIP applications during a signup period, including:

- determining a signup period
- notifying the National FS Office of available unobligated funds after the signup period ends.

**C**

**Obsolete Notice**

Notice SIP-28 is obsolete.

---

**Disposal Date**

October 1, 2000

**Distribution**

State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, State Forestry Offices, and NRCS State Offices; FS, 5; CSREES, 5

## Notice SIP-29

### 2 Acceptance of SIP Applications

---

#### A

##### **SIP Applications for General SIP Funds, Fund Code 00**

Effective June 8, 2000, SIP applications shall be accepted by Service Foresters and FSA County Offices during an established signup period.

County Offices shall notify producers of the authority to resume accepting SIP applications in monthly newsletters and other available means.

---

#### B

##### **SIP Applications for SIP Ice Storm Funds, Fund Code 20**

The temporary suspension and resumption of accepting SIP applications does **not** apply to SIP Ice Storm applications. Applications for SIP Ice Storm Funds, fund code 20, will continue to be accepted in previously approved SIP Ice Storm counties in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

---

#### C

##### **Appeals**

Appeals shall be handled by the State Forester according to established procedure.

---

### 3 Handling Applications

---

#### A

##### **Establishing a Signup Period**

Each State should establish a signup period for accepting SIP applications to:

- begin no sooner than receipt of this notice
  - end no later than August 31, 2000.
- 

#### B

##### **Processing Applications**

Applications that are in hand at the end of the signup shall be processed by COB September 15, 2000. To accomplish this, County Offices shall ensure that all pending applications are forwarded to the Service Forester by COB September 6, 2000.

Service Foresters shall ensure that all applications are processed and forwarded to the State Forester by COB September 8, 2000.

By COB September 15, 2000, State Foresters, in consultation with FSA, shall:

- determine the amount of funds needed to fund pending applications
  - report any unobligated funds that are available for release according to subparagraph 4 C.
-

## Notice SIP-29

### 4 Action

---

#### A

##### State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- immediately provide a copy of this notice to County Offices and FS State Offices or applicable State Forestry Offices
  - consult with the State Forester to determine a signup period in the State to:
    - begin no sooner than receipt of this notice
    - end no later than August 31, 2000
  - by September 15, 2000, determine, in consultation with the State Forester, the amount of SIP funds available for release
  - **not** take action to remove funds from ledgers until SIP-357 is received in the State Office.
- 

#### B

##### County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- begin accepting SIP applications at the beginning of the signup period identified by the State Office through COB August 31, 2000
  - ensure that all pending applications are forwarded to the Service Forester by COB September 8, 2000
  - notify producers of the signup period using monthly newsletters and other available means
  - **not** take action to remove funds on ledgers until notified to do so by the State Office.
- 

Continued on the next page

## Notice SIP-29

### 4 Action (Continued)

---

#### C

##### State Forester Action

State Foresters shall:

- in consultation with the FSA State Office, report the SIP funds, fund code 00, available for release by COB September 15, 2000
  - FAX to Susan Stein, National FS Office at 202-205-1271.
- 

#### D

##### Service Forester Action

Service Foresters shall:

- begin accepting SIP applications at the beginning of the signup period identified by the State Office through COB August 31, 2000
  - ensure that all pending applications are processed by COB September 8, 2000.
-